

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 AGR-20 SY-10 SAJ-01 DPW-01 /116 W

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R 100410Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6903

INFO AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL CAN THO

UNCLAS SAIGON 16137

FOLLOWING TEL FROM AMCONSUL NHA TRANG RECEIVED SEP08, 1973
SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY SAIGON IS REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE

UNCLAS NHA TRANG 0822

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT VS

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATORS IN CAM RANH BLOCK QL 1

1. DEMONSTRATORS IN TAN THANH HAMLET, SUOI CAM VILLAGE, CAM RANH (CP008.318) ERECTED A BARRICADE OF TIRES AND BAREED WIRE ACROSS QL 1 AROUND SEVEN O'CLOCK THIS MORNING (SEPT 8) AND BLOCKED TRAFFIC COMPLETELY UNTIL AUTHORITIES REMOVED THE IMPEDIMENT AT 1:15 THIS AFTERNOON. POLITICAL OFFICER AND KHANH HOA/CAM RANH PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE OBSERVED SITE OF DEMONSTRATION FROM THE AIR AT 2:10 PM. TRAFFIC WAS FLOWING NORMALLY AND CROWD HAD DISPURSED.

2. THE DEMONSTRATION WAS A PROTEST BY TAN THANH RESIDENTS AGSINST THE CAM RANH GOVERNMENT DESIGNED TO CLEAR THEIR CLAIM TO USE LAND IN WESTERN SUOI CAM. THERE IS NO PRIVATE LAND IN CAM RANH (ALL OF IT IS OWNED BY THE GVN), BUT PEOPLE
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FROM TAN THANH HAVE BEEN FARMING THIS AREA FOR SOME SIX MONTHS.

ONE OR TWO MONTHS AGO COL. NGUYEN VAN THINH, MAYOR OF CAM RANH, GAVE WRITTEN PERMISSION FOR ANOTHER GROUP UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF AN QUANG BUDDHIST LEADER THICH DUC MINH AND CONGRESSMAN LY HIEN TAI (WHO ENJOYS AN QUANG SUPPORT) TO FARM THE SAME LAND. THIS GROUP WAS UNABLE TO PERSUADE THOSE RESIDENTS OF TAN THANH ALREADY FARMING THE LAND OVER IT UP, AND THE DISPUTE REMAINED UNRESOLVED WITH BOTH PARTIES REPRESENTED AT THE SITE. ON SEPT 6, THE AN QUANG GROUP REPORTEDLY HIRED HOODLUM ELEMENTS FROM AMONG THE DSABLED VETERANS TO INTIMIDATE THE TAN THANH RESIDENTS. TODAY'S DEMONSTRATION WAS A RESPONSE BYTHE RESIDENTS OF TAN THANH, THOUGH IT DID NOT INVOLVE A DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH THE AN QUANG GROUP.

3. AN QUANG GROUP IS DETERMINED TO FARM THE DISPUTED LAND, AND IS ERECTING HOUSES IN THE AREA. THEY HAVE THREATENED VIOLENCE AGAINST TAN THANH RESIDENTS IF THEY KEEP COMING TO THE FILEDS. THUS THE DISPUTE IS HARDLY OVER, AND MORE ALTERCATIONS ARE POSSIBLE DESPITE COL. THINH'S ASSURANCES THAT HE WILL "TAKE CARE OF IT".

4. ALTHOUGH A SMALL MINORITY OF TAN THANH RESIDENTS ARE CATHOLIC, THIS IS BASICALLY A DISPUTE AMONG BUDDHISTS WITH NO COMMUNAL OVERTONES.

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APPLING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON16137
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730945/aaaabgyz.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Oct-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <06-Feb-2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEMONSTRATORS IN CAM RANH BLOCK QL 1
TAGS: PINS, PINT, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005